

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are pending. Applicants present new claims 41-44 in light of U.S. Patent No. 6,489,267 to Reugg. Forwarded herewith are certified copies of documents U.K. Patent Application Nos. 0012090-7 and 9921220-1, from which the instant application claims priority.

Claims 4-6, 11 and 14 were objected under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) as allegedly being in improper form. The amendments to claims 4, 6, 11 and 14 render the objection moot. Consequently, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 7-10, 12, 13 and 15-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §135(a) based on claims 1-12 of the Reugg patent. Applicants respectfully point out that instant claim 39 already falls within the scope of the Reugg claims. However, new claims 41-44 are also presented herein. Claim 41 is identical to Reugg claim 10. Support for claims 41-44 is found throughout the specification and from the pending claims. Thus, no new matter is added.

If the Examiner believes an interference should be declared with the Reugg patent, Applicants will move forward accordingly.

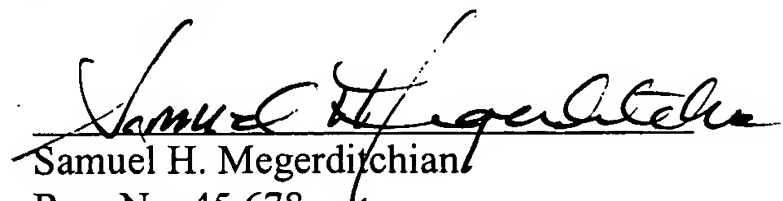
The amendments and the remarks made herein are not made for reasons related to patentability and, thus, do not prevent the application of the doctrine of equivalents.

Favorable consideration of the application and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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